BEFORE NANCY KEENAN, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION 1 STATE OF MONTANA 2 3 JOHN RICHARDSON, 4 Appellant, 5 OSPI 186-90 vs. 6 OPINION AND ORDER BROWNING SCHOOL DISTRICT #9 7 BOARD OF TRUSTEES, and DARRYL OMSBERG, GLACIER COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS 8 9 Respondents. 10 11

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STATEMENT OF THE CASE

John Richardson (Richardson) was a probationary employee of Browning School District #9. His employment as a bus driver was covered by a collective bargaining agreement. On February 13, 1990, the district's board of trustees terminated Richardson's employment with the district. The union representing Richardson declined to process a grievance on his behalf.

On March 9, 1990, Richardson filed an appeal with the Glacier County Superintendent of Schools. On April 23, 1990, the County Superintendent issued an opinion finding that the matter was not a contested case and that he had no jurisdiction to hear the dispute. The matter was then appealed to this State Superintendent.

Browning School District #9 (District) filed a Motion for Joinder of an Indispensable Party seeking to join the Browning Federation of Classified Employees.

Having considered the complete record and briefs submitted, this Superintendent makes the following:

DECISION

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has jurisdiction of this appeal in accordance with section 20-3-210, MCA. The Motion for Joinder is denied. The decision of the County Superintendent denying jurisdiction over this matter is affirmed.

MEMORANDUM OPINION

Section 10.6.104, ARM, requires that the County Superintendent upon receipt of a notice of appeal determine whether the appeal is a contested case and whether he has jurisdiction over the matter.

10.6.102, ARM, defines contested case as follows:

Contested case means any proceeding in which a determination of legal rights, duties or privileges of a party is required by law.

This section does not in itself create jurisdiction for a county superintendent to hear a matter.

Richardson's employment was covered by a collective bargaining agreement which contained the following language:

All newly hired employees shall serve a six (6) month probationary period. During the probationary period, employees may be dismissed at any time and for any reason that the employer at his discretion deems appropriate. Article VI, Collective Bargaining Agreement, May 26, 1988.

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Richardson's appeal fails to show any legal right, duty or privilege created by any law enforceable before the County Superintendent. He was a probationary employee who could be dismissed at any time for any reason. The sole avenue for remedy lies with the collective bargaining agreement and its binding arbitration clause. Neither the County Superintendent nor this Superintendent have the authority to require the union to pursue bargaining collective remedies. Likewise, the this Superintendent has no jurisdiction to require the joinder of a union.

DATED this 9 day of November, 1990.

Nancy KEENAN Keera

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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